

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HIALEAH, FLORIDA, CAUTIONING THE CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS FOR NOT FOCUSING ON CUBA'S SORDID HISTORY OF GROSS HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES AND MISTREATMENT OF ITS BLACK MAJORITY POPULATION, AND STRONGLY URGING THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION TO REFRAIN FROM ALTERING TRADE EMBARGO UNTIL THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT RELEASES ALL PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE, SHOWS GREATER RESPECT FOR FREEDOM OF RELIGION, SPEECH, PRESS, AND ASSEMBLY AND HOLDS FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS.

WHEREAS, the Congressional Black Caucus ("CBC") members recently met with Fidel and Raul Castro in Cuba; and

WHEREAS, prior to the trip, U.S. based groups urged the CBC members to inquire about the health and safety of Cuba's courageous political prisoners and democracy activists, such as Afro-Cuban prisoner of conscience, Dr. Oscar Elias Biscet, and civil rights activist, Jorge Luis Perez Garcia "Antunez"; and

WHEREAS, Afro-Cubans represent over 60 percent of Cuba's population, but only 17 percent of the senior leadership of the Communist Party and 10 percent of the senior command of the Cuban Armed Forces; in contrast, Afro-Cubans also represent 80 percent of Cuba's massive prison population; and

WHEREAS, over the past 50 years, the Castros and their secret police have been directly responsible for killing thousands of nonviolent, courageous pro-democracy activists and for jailing and torturing tens of thousands of others, and they continue to this day to perpetrate their brutal crimes; and

WHEREAS, the CBC members not publicly address any concern for the sordid history of gross human rights abuses perpetrated by the Cuban government or the tragic fate of countless Cuban democracy and human rights activists; and

WHEREAS, instead, the CBC members gave credence to a government the United States Department of State only six weeks ago called totalitarian; and

WHEREAS, before the Obama administration alters the trade embargo, the White House and Congress should ensure that the Cuban dictatorship releases all prisoners of

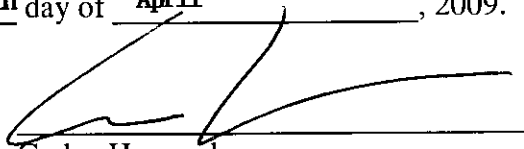
conscience, makes substantial progress in respecting freedom of religion, speech, press, and assembly and holds free and fair elections.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HIALEAH, FLORIDA, THAT:

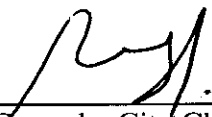
Section 1. The Mayor and the City Council of the City of Hialeah, Florida hereby cautions the Congressional Black Caucus for not focusing on Cuba's sordid history of gross human rights abuses and mistreatment of its black majority population.

Section 2. The Mayor and the City Council of the City of Hialeah, Florida strongly urge the Obama administration to refrain from altering trade embargo until the Cuban government releases all prisoners of conscience, shows greater respect for freedom of religion, speech, press and assembly and holds free and fair elections.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 28th day of April, 2009.


Carlos Hernandez
Council President

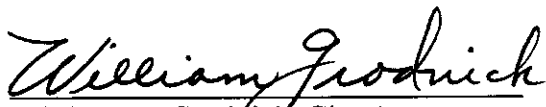
Attest:


Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

Approved on the 11 day of May, 2009.


Mayor Julio Robaina

Approved as to legal sufficiency and form:


William M. Grodnick, City Attorney

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Resolution was adopted by a unanimous vote with Councilmembers, Caragol, Casals-Muñoz, Cue, Garcia-Martinez, Gonzalez, Hernandez, and Yedra voting "Yes".